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Now is a good time to visit the Arboretum; the foliage on tree and bush and vine is assuming brilliant autumn tints and fruits of all colors hang from the branches. The Viburnums, Spindle-trees and Crabapples in particular, are laden with a wealth of brightly colored fruits. Everywhere at this season of the year tinted autumn foliage is the feature of the landscape but in the Arboretum, where every northern land has been laid under contribution, the range of color is greater than that of America's woodlands.

The *Viburnum* tribe is widely distributed throughout the northern hemisphere. More than 120 species are recognized, of which 15 are native of eastern North America. As a group Viburnums are of great horticultural value, some of the members ranking among the most useful of garden shrubs. A great many are ornamental not only in flower but also in fruit which varies in color from yellow through varying shades of red and crimson to rich blue and black. No species native of this country other than *V. trilobum*, better known as *V. americanum*, and *V. pauciflorum*, which belong to the *Opulus* section, has red fruit. Indeed, all the red-fruited species outside of the *Opulus* group are native of the Orient. Two or three valuable species are confined to Japan and Korea but central and western China, since the dawn of this century, has given us a dozen Viburnums with red-colored fruits. These have peculiar interest to all who value shrubs for their brightly colored autumn fruits and, moreover, almost without exception they have handsome autumn tinted foliage. Altogether this group deserves far greater attention from nurserymen, landscape architects and garden lovers than at present it enjoys.

Viburnum theiferum is not only a very distinct shrub but in fruit it is probably the handsomest of all the Chinese species. It is a plant of tall growth with stout, erect stems and horizontally disposed branches. The leaves are rather thick and fleshy, smooth on both surfaces, ovate-lanceolate to oblong-ovate, shortly stalked and slightly hanging. The fruit is ovoid, remarkably large, and is produced in quantities in hanging, flattened clusters. In the typical form the fruit is scarlet, in an-

other it is orange-red, a color unique in the whole family. On Mt. Omei, a sacred mountain in western China, the Buddhist monks collect the leaves and make an infusion known as Sweet Tea which they sell to pilgrims at much profit. The plant owes its specific name to this use but in gardens it will be valued for its brilliantly colored fruits produced in royal profusion and lasting from mid-September until the end of October. A fine specimen may be seen on Bussey Hill.

Viburnum lobophyllum is a bush some 6 to 8 feet tall with stout, ascending stems and broad ovate to roundish, pointed leaves, almost, if not quite, glabrous at maturity, coarsely toothed along the margin and with veins deeply impressed. The ripe fruit is bright scarlet, borne many together in flattened round, 3 to 4 inch broad clusters. The young shoots are clothed with a waxy bloom and the winter buds are hairy and stout. The fruit is larger than that of any other globose-fruited *Viburnum* and hang in clusters which weigh down the branches. Although the leaves fall with little or no change in color the plant throughout the latter half of September until mid-October is a striking object. It is a native of central China from whence it was introduced by Wilson in 1907 through seeds sent to the Arboretum. Very similar is *V. betulifolium*, also from central China, which, however, has smaller leaves and fruits and glabrous winter buds. A third related species is *V. hupehense*, a rounded shrub with ascending-spreading stems 5 to 8 feet tall. The oblong-ovate to ovate or obovate leaves are hairy on both surfaces and in the autumn assume a dull blackish purple color. The fruit is globose, about the size of a small pea, vivid scarlet, borne abundantly in short-stalked, flattened clusters each from 2 to 3 inches in diameter. A Japanese species also found in Korea is *V. erosum*, a twiggy bush of compact habit which seldom exceeds 5 feet in height. The leaves, ovate-lanceolate and shortly stalked, are rough to the touch and the fruit is small, globose and bright red. Neither this nor the closely related *V. ichangense* is of particular garden merit.

Viburnum Wrightii. Since quite early in September this has been one of the most strikingly beautiful fruiting shrubs in the Arboretum and will remain so until severe frosts set in. It is a native of Japan and although introduced into cultivation more than a quarter of a century ago is rarely seen in gardens. Its moderately stout stems are ascending and spreading forming a loose, roundish bush some 5 feet tall and from 6 to 8 feet through. The leaves are shortly stalked, broadly ovate, often roundish, and assume dark wine-purple tints before they fall. The fruit is globose, lustrous scarlet, densely crowded in short-stalked flattened corymbs each from 3 to 5 inches in diameter. So heavy is the fruit and so abundantly produced that it weighs the branches down to the ground. This Japanese species is also remarkable for the length of time it retains its fruit and foliage in good condition.

Viburnum dilatatum is a sturdy shrub with ascending-spreading branches forming a compact, more or less flat-topped bush from 6 to 9 feet tall and more in width. The branchlets are stout and each and



Most beautiful in fruit, *Malus toringoides*.

every one terminates in a 4 to 5 inch broad, flattened cluster of ovoid brilliant red fruits, lustrous and sparkling in the sunshine. The fruits are small, abundantly produced and crown the whole bush in vivid color. The leaves are hairy, coarsely toothed more or less ovate, and assume vinous purple tints before they fall in late October; on some bushes the foliage is a rich bronze. There is a variety (*xanthocarpum*) with fruits exactly the color of old ivory and, if not so striking a subject as the type, is interesting as being the only yellow-fruited variety of *Viburnum* known outside the *Opulus* group. This and the others mentioned may be seen in fruit in the *Viburnum* collection just on the left entering from Centre Street Gate, almost facing the junction of Bussey Hill and Valley roads.

Malus toringoides. All the Crabapples are ornamental; some of them are especially valued for their flowers, some for their fruit and some for both qualities. For fruit alone *Malus toringoides* is probably the handsomest of the whole tribe, even as it is one of the most distinct. The fruits are waxen in appearance, rosy red for the most part but yellowish on the side away from the light. They are pear-shaped, each about five-eighths of an inch long and half an inch broad and produced in nearly sessile clusters, each fruit pendent on a slender stalk. It is a tree possessed of much character, being Thorn-like in habit with intricately placed branches which when laden with fruit hang downward, the whole forming a broad, irregular, more or less ovoid mass. The leaves are sharp-pointed, deeply incised and not at all unlike those of the European Hawthorn. The flowers are pure white and less attractive than those of many other species but from mid-September until late October when laden with myriad fruits no other Crabapple is more attractive. It is a native of the Chino-Thibetan borderland from whence it was introduced by seeds collected by Wilson in 1904. Some admirers have dubbed it Wilson's Crabapple and the discoverer is well pleased with the compliment. In a wild state this is a small tree of irregular habit, seldom exceeding 15 feet in height and breadth, but under cultivation it promises to exceed these dimensions. A fine specimen may be seen on Bussey Hill and another in the Crabapple collection at the foot of Peters Hill. To those fond of a beautiful fruiting tree the sight of either one of these plants is well worth a journey to the Arboretum. It is a good species and unlike most of the family comes true from seed.

Berberis amurensis. The Barberries in general are bearing little fruit this season, due probably to heavy rains when they were in blossom. The Amur Barberry, however, is as full as ever. Indeed, this most handsome species appears to be a never failing cropper. Related to the common Barberry (*B. vulgaris*), this plant is abundant in the colder parts of northeastern Asia, and it is represented in Japan by its variety *japonica*, often called *B. Regeliana*, which differs chiefly in its broader, more densely serrulate leaves and smaller flower clusters. The Amur Barberry is an upstanding bush 8 to 12 feet tall and more in diameter, dome-shaped and dense. The fruits are racemose, ellipsoid, bright red covered with a slight glaucous bloom. It is one of the hardiest and handsomest of the whole Barberry clan. E. H. W.